

al. is silent as to this feature and does not recognize the radial size of the chambers as being a result effective variable. Column 14, lines 1-3 simply states that "other contour patterns are possible using different relative pressures in the chambers or different chambers altogether." However, this does not address the problem addressed by the present inventors, nor the solution reflected by independent claims 73 and 80.

For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 73 and 80, and the dependent claims depending therefrom, and thus all of claims 73-86, patentably distinguish over Hoshizaki. Indication of such is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The Examiner is again thanked for his courtesy in granting and conducting the interview of November 6, 2002. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the fact the Examiner agreed on the record that the claims distinguish over Hoshizaki et al. '530. Accordingly, an early and favorable further action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

In view of the above remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is requested to pass the case to issue. If the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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